Claims:

1. A method of providing an accounting service in a
mobile communication system, comprising the steps of:
5   accessing (**M1, M2**) a chargeable functionality of
said communication system by a user (**U**), by
             authenticating said user (**U**) by a
authentication/authorization server (**AA-S**), and
             authorizing said access of said user (**U**) by
10 said authentication/authorization server (**AA-S**); and
        indicating (**M2**) an accounting server· (**ACC-1**) for the
user (**U**) by said authentication/authorization server
(**AA-S**), wherein
        said accounting server (**ACC-1**) is physically
15 separated from said authentication/authorization server
(**AA-S**).

2. A method according to claim 1 wherein said
authentication/authorization server is in a home network
20 of said user.

3. A method according to claim 1, wherein said chargeable
functionality is a visited network of said mobile
communication system.

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4. A method according to claim 1, wherein said chargeable
functionality is a service of said mobile communication
system.

30 5. A method according to any one of claims 1 to 4,
wherein said accessing step is performed by sending an
authentication/authorization request message (**M1**) from an
authentication/authorization client (**AAA-C**) to which said

user (**U**) is currently attached to said
authentication/authorization server (**AA-S**) which replies
by sending an authentication/authorization answer message
(**M2**) to said authentication/authorization client (**AAA-C**),

5 and wherein said answer message (**M2**) includes said
indication of an accounting server (**ACC-1**) for said user
(**U**).

6. A method according to any one of claims 1 to 5,
10 wherein said authentication/authorization server directly
indicates said accounting server to said
authentication/authorization client which is handling
said user and keeps a corresponding account.

15 7. A method according to any one of claims 1 to 6,
comprising the further step of
        requesting (**M3**) an accounting for said chargeable
functionality from said indicated accounting server
(**ACC-1**) by said authentication/authorization client
20 (**AAA-C**).

8. A method according to claim 7, wherein, during said
accessing step, said authentication/authorization client
receives a ticket indicating that said user has been
25 granted to access said chargeable functionality, and said
ticket is sent to said accounting server.

9. A method according to claim 8, wherein said accounting
server checks whether accounting for said user is to be
30 started.

10. A method according to claim 8, wherein said ticket
contains at least one of the information of the group of:

to which user it belongs, when the access was granted,
for how long the access was granted, and from which
client the access was granted.

5   11. A method according to claim 8 to 10, wherein said
ticket is signed by the authentication/authorization
server so that it is verified to the accounting server
that the authentication/authorization server really has
made the ticket.

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12. A system for providing an accounting service
comprising means adapted to perform a method according to
any of the claims 1-11.

15   13. An accounting server device comprising means adapted
to perform respective steps of a method according to any
of the claims 1-11.